

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

66634

DRAFTED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL

APPROVED BY: NEA: ARAPHEL

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O 162215 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASST SECY SISCO

FOLLOWING SENT USIA WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 16 APR 73:

QUOTE KUWAIT 1218

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO BEIRUT RAID

REF: A. USIA 7094- C

B. KUWAIT 1189- C

1. TREATMENT OF ISRAELI RAIDSON BEIRUT IN KUWAIT ARABIC AND ENGLISH PRESS (PRIVATELY OWNED) WENT FAR BEYOND NORMAL SHOCK AND DISMAY. SEVERAL EDITORIALS AND HEADLINES APPEARED TO BE THINLY- VEILED INCITEMENTS TO ATTACK AMERICANS AND U. S. INTERESTS. RAI AL- AM HEADLINED APRIL 16, " CONFIRMATION OF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN BEIRUT MASSACRE, " COMPLEMENTED THIS WITH SIDEBAR SPECULATING THAT SOME ISRAELI ATTACKERS HAD ENTERED U. S. EMBASSY BEIRUT AND ESCAPED " THROUGH A TUNNEL LINKING THE EMBASSY TO THE SEA." EDITORIAL SAME PAPER SAYS, " THE U. S. HAS, IN THE BEIRUT OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY ISRAEL, MOVED FROM A SECRET WAR AGAINST THE ARABS TO AN OPEN ONE." AL- QABAS HAD EVEN MORE SAVAGE EDITORIAL URGING, ARABS TO " RETALIATE AGAINST ALL AMERICAN INTERESTS" AND " LIQUIDATE AMERICA IN THE ARAB WORLD."

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2. SAME PAPERS ALSO FAIRLY GENEROUS IN PRINTING U. S. DENIALS OF INVOLVEMENT, BOTH IN SEPARATE ARTICLES AND IN TEXT OF OTHER NEWS STORIES. HOWEVER, PRINTING DENIAL ALSO GIVES OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW ORIGINAL STATEMENT; I. E., " U. S. GOVERNMENT HAS PROTESTED TO ALGERIA A BROADCAST BY A PALESTINIAN GROUP CALLING ON ARAB MASSES TO KILL AND ASSASSINATE EVERYONE WHO IS AN AMERICAN." RADIO AND TELEVISION, BOTH KUWAITI GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED MEDIA, WERE MORE MORE RESTRAINED. ONE TV PROGRAM. A ROUND- UP OF THE WEEK' S EVENTS, REPEATED PALESTINIAN CHARGES OF U. S. INVOLVEMENT. RADIO DID NOT, AS FAR AS WE KNOW. MEDIA ASIDE, WE FEAR THAT MANY ARABS PRIVATELY BELIEVE THESE CHARGES. IF PRESSED, SOME MAY RETREAT TO POSITION THAT U. S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL MADE RAID POSSIBLE. FEW SEEM TO EQUATE TERRORISM IN BEIRUT WITH ARAB ACTS OF TERRORISM IN CYPRUS, KHARTOUM AND MUNICH. Lisle UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE070806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA: ARAPHEL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730442/aaaaioiq.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KUWAIT 1189
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980116
Subject: MEDIA REACTION TO BEIRUT RAID
TAGS: PFOR, LE
To: HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005